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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Microsoft position on the software market make them a monopoly company. They thoroughly use it by adding not large differences to standards but small ones. Many companies in Sweden have abandoned other products like Netscape since they do not handle everything correctly if a site has been developed by any MS product. Since a lot of people use MS Word, MS Front Page in large companies they of course produce their sites with those tools. Netscape handles them almost correctly but since Microsoft has added some slight differences only known internally of Microsoft it is only MS Internet Explorer that has the possibility to handle the pages correctly.

They have tried the same with Java and their product Visual J++ that in some cases produced not standard Java code. So, Microsoft is defacto, by its large market share, setting the standard but not telling anyone.

A similar case is the openoffice.org tool that tries to read MS Word formatted documents. I recently filed an issue about a bug to openoffice.org. They did not handle some tables correctly that was produced with a MS Word tool that a friend of mine used. They looked at the binary format of the document and the reason was that MS Word ignored in this specific case the carriage return that was included in the table? Why did they ignore it? How should anyone else than the developers at Microsoft be able to write products that use information produced by other tools either by direct communication or via files produced by Microsoft tools.

If a small company do like Microsoft none will bother since it often does not affect anybody. But since Microsoft totally dominate the market everyone must follow what they do. If Microsoft decide that they need a new product in a certain area they just take it since they can easily create a new product that is better integrated with all other Microsoft tools than any other vendor can do.

The only possible solution is to divide MS into a lot of smaller companies.

Regards

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